PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

BULLETIN] SEPTEMBER 25, 1943 [No. 165

Members of the public are requested to make a free present of any suitable old Tamil books they can spare for the perusal, in their leisure time, of our soldiers outside India.

Books so given will be handed over to the Superintendent of the State Press, who will arrange to despatch them.

LECTURE CLXV.

MR. CHURCHILL'S REVIEW OF THE WAR.

(*September 21.*)

MASTERY OF THE SKIES.

SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION.

This year, victory on land has been accomplished by an ever-increasing mastery of the air by the British, the Americans, and the Russians over the enemy in Europe.

Speaking particularly of our own air power, the weight of bombs discharged by the Royal Air Force on Germany in the last 12 months is three times that of the preceding 12 months. The weight of bombs discharged in the last 3 months is half as great again as that of the preceding 3 months. There has also been a great improvement in accuracy owing to technical devices. The percentage of loss for the first 8 months of 1943 is less than that in the same period of last year, and the morale and ardour of our crews is very high.

Almost a total and systematic destruction of many of the centres of German war effort continues on a great scale, and at a greater pace. The havoc wrought is indescribable.

The effects upon German war production in all its forms and upon U-boat building, are matched by those produced upon the life and economy of the whole of that guilty organisation. There has been an enormous diversion of German energy from the war

fronts to internal defence against air attacks, and the offensive power of the enemy has notably been crippled thereby. The German Air Force has been driven increasingly to the defensive. The attacks we have had in this island, though marked by occasional distressing incidents, are at present negligible compared with the vast scale of the war. The enemy is increasingly compelled to concentrate on building fighter aircraft and night fighters for home defence, at the expense of his bomber production.

He is also forced to save his strength, so far as possible, on all the fighting fronts, and is therefore restricted to a far lower rate of activity than we and our Allies maintain. Thus, he throws the burden increasingly upon his fully-occupied ground forces.

The Royal Air-force is at present maintaining in action throughout the war scene, in all theatres, nearly 50% more first-line aircraft than Germany. That is the Royal Air Force alone, apart from Russia.

On top of this already heavy preponderance comes the whole, rapidly expanding, weight of the U. S. Army, building up ceaselessly in this country, and already in action on a great scale, both here and in the Mediterranean. The U. S. system of daylight bombing gives great accuracy on specific targets, and is also accompanied by very severe fighting, producing heavy losses among the enemy's fighter aircraft. British and U. S. forces are fed by an ever-broadening and improving supply of new aircraft, which altogether exceeds the corresponding German aircraft supply by more than four to one.

DEGREE OF SATURATION.

The continued progress of Anglo-American preponderance, which can certainly be expected month after month, opens possibilities of saturating the German defences both on the ground and in the air. If a certain degree of saturation can be reached—and we can be sure that this can only be won after a bitter struggle with the enemy air defences —a reaction of the most far-reaching character will be produced. We shall in fact create conditions, with only a small loss to ourselves, whereby the actual methodical destruction, by day and night, of every military target of significance in the widest sense will become possible. This destruction by the Anglo-American forces is not necessarily beyond our reach even in 1944, with consequences, if it is attained, which cannot be measured, and must certainly be profound. All this must be considered in relation to the gigantic struggle which is proceeding ceaselessly along the 2,000 mile Russian Front from the White Sea to the Black Sea, where the Russian forces are already, at many points, superior in strength to the Germans.

THE WAR AT SEA.

Not less remarkable than air or land, and certainly not less important, is the revolution effected in our position at sea. I have repeatedly stated to the House that our greatest danger since the war began, since invasion seemed so much more remote, is the U-boat war upon our sea communications and Allied shipping all over the world.

The great victory which was won by our N. Atlantic convoys and their escorts in May was followed by a magnificent diminution in sinkings. The monthly statements, which are issued on the authority of the President and myself deserve close attention.

I have little to add to them to-day, but it is a fact that, during the 4 months ended Sept 18, 1943, no merchant vessel was sunk by enemy action in the N. Atlantic.

The month of August was the lowest in regard to sinkings which we have ever had since the United States entered the war, and it was less than half the average of British and Allied sinkings in the 15 months preceding the U. S. entry into the war.

In the first fortnight of September no Allied ship was sunk by U-boat action in any part of the world. This is altogether unprecedented in the whole history of the U-boat struggle, either in this war or the last.

The credit balance of new building over the losses for all times, including marine risks since the beginning of the year, the net gain, that is to say, exceeds 6,000,000 tons, and, should the present favourable conditions hold, we shall soon have replaced all the losses, suffered by the United Nations since the beginning of the war.

WAR AGAINST JAPAN.

I have dealt with land, air, and sea, but now I must turn to another part of the world. At the Conference at Quebec, much attention was given to the prosecution of the war against Japan. The offensive is already on foot on a considerable scale in various parts of the Pacific. The main strength of the United States is now deployed in that ocean. The main weight of the offensive operations there is in the Solomons and New Guinea, where Gen. MacArthur is conducting a large-scale offensive. The first steps were taken by the eviction of the Japanese from Guadalcanar and Papua. These were exploited by the landings which took place, on July 13, on New Georgia Island; and, on Sept. 4, in Huon Bay, N.-E. of Lae. New Georgia has been cleared of the enemy, and the twin bases of Salamaua and Lae were reduced in a manner which shows a remarkable development in the use of amphibious and air-borne power, and which furnished another opportunity for the 9th Australian Division to display to the Japanese their qualities which the Germans tested at El Alamein.

PROMISE FOR FUTURE.

These operations give great promise for the future, and they will unfold stage by stage as the months pass by. Then, while we were in Quebec, we also received news of the evacuation of the Japanese from the Aleutian Islands, which are American territory, by the occupation of Kiska, in which Canadian forces also took part. Kiska was a sequel to the annihilation of the Japanese garrison in the island of Attu, and it is certainly remarkable for the fact that the Japanese, who had occupied Kiska with a garrison of 10,000 men or more, were not prepared to await assault, but fled beforehand under cover of darkness in their ships.

Here is a new feature in the resistance of Japan. Hitherto, we have reckoned on their dying to the last man, which they certainly did at Attu, and in which respect we were prepared to serve them as well as we could. But at Kiska, and also to some extent at Salamaua and Lae, a somewhat different mood seems to have possessed the enemy.

Evacuation and retreat in order to save their lives now seems to have taken a place in their method of fighting. We shall see, in due course, whether these new tendencies become pronounced. If so, while it will not alter the result, it will save cost and trouble.

A WINDFALL.

The Italian surrender was a windfall which had nothing to do with the date fixed for the harvesting of the orchard.

The truth is that the Armistice was delayed to fit in with the attack, and not that the attack was delayed to fit in with the announcement.

Hitler has left us in no doubt that he considers the conduct of Italy treacherous and base in the extreme, and he is a good judge of such matters.

Mussolini used his arbitrary power to strike for material gain at a falling France, and became an enemy of the British Empire which had, for so many years, cherished the cause of Italian liberty. There was the crime, and though it cannot be undone, and though nations who allow their rights and liberty to be subverted by tyrants must suffer heavy penalties for the crimes of those tyrants, yet I cannot view the Italian action at this juncture as other than natural and human.

May it prove to be the first of a series of acts of self redemption.

The Italian people have already suffered terribly. Their manhood has been cast away in Africa and Russia. Their soldiers have been deserted in the field. Their wealth has been squandered. Their Empire has been lost—irretrievably lost.

Now, their own beautiful homeland must become a battlefield for the German rearguard. Even more suffering lies ahead. They are to be pillaged and terrorised in Hitler's fury and revenge.

Nevertheless, as the Armies of the British Empire and the U. S. march forward in Italy, the Italian people will be rescued from the state of servitude and will be enabled, in due course, to regain their rightful place among the free democracies of the modern world.

POLICY TOWARDS ITALY.

The escape of Mussolini to Germany, and his attempt to form a Quisling Government with German bayonets, to refix the Fascist yoke upon the necks of the Italian people, will raise the issue of Italian civil war. It is necessary, in the general interest as well as in that of Italy, that all the surviving forces of Italy's national life should be rallied together around their Government, and that the King and Marshal Badoglio should be supported by whatever liberal Left Wing elements are capable of making headway against the Nazi Quisling gang, and thus drive this villainous combination from Italian soil, or, better still, annihilate it on the spot. This is, of course, without the slightest prejudice to the untrammelled right of the Italian nation to make what arrangement it chooses for the future Government of their country on democratic lines when peace is restored. I have not the slightest doubt as to what will be the view of the House and of the country in respect of the policy which I am announcing which we are determined to carry through with the utmost vigour.

HOW GERMANY WILL BE TREATED.

The treatment of the Germans will be different from that of the Italian people. Twice in our lifetime, and also three times, in that of our fathers, they have plunged the world into their wars of expansion and aggression. They do not value freedom themselves, and the spectacle of it in others is hateful to them.

The core of Germany is Prussia. There is the source of the recurring pestilence. I am sure that the British, American, and Russian peoples who have suffered measureless waste, peril, and bloodshed twice in a quarter of a century through the Teutonic urge for domination, will, this time, take steps to put it beyond the power of Prussia to make all Germany come at them again with pent-up vengeance and long-nurtured plans.

Nazi tyranny and Prussian Militarism are the two main elements in German life which must be absolutely destroyed. They must be absolutely rooted, out if Europe and the world are to be spared a third and still more frightful conflict.

The satellite States, suborned or overawed, may perhaps, if they can help to shorten the war, be allowed to work their passage home.

But the twin roots of all our evils—Nazi tyranny and Prussian Militarism—must be extirpated. Until this is achieved there are no sacrifices that we will not make, no lengths in violence to which we will not go.

ADRIATIC COMMAND.

In the Balkans, patriot bands of Greeks and Yugoslavs with indomitable tenacity have maintained their formidable resistance to the enemy. They hold great regions under their control, fight fierce battles in the mountains, destroy communications occupy towns and ports with vigour, and on a scale which has required no fewer than 47 German, Italian, and Bulgarian divisions to be maintained continuously in these vast and wild spaces.

Of these, upwards of 25 were Italian divisions, who, even if unable to turn on the common foe, will certainly be no further danger to the patriots and, indeed, a valuable source of equipment.

Hitherto, we have had no means of helping these unconquerable champions of Greek and Yugoslav freedom, except by airborne supplies and by officers and money. With the control of S. Italy, to which we are confidently looking forward in the near future, perhaps a Command of the Adriatic should become possible.

All this opens to us a far-reaching vista of action, which must also be surveyed in relation to the conditions and temper of the people in the satellite States of Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria, all of which is a study in itself, all of which will be increasingly affected by the advance of the Russian armies and by the development of Anglo-American bombing.

The third and most tangible advantage we have gained from the overthrow of Italy is the surrender of the Italian Fleet. This was fulfilled in fidelity to the orders of the Italian King and the Badoglio Government.

This event has decisively altered the naval balance of the world.

S. E. ASIA COMMAND.

Turning to another but a cognate aspect of the war which was discussed at Quebec, considerable progress has been made in the organisation of the S.-E. Asia Command against Japan. The Supreme Allied Commander, Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, will shortly arrive in India, accompanied by Staff officers who will form the combined Allied Headquarters, as modelled on that which has been set up in N. Africa under Gen. Eisenhower with so much advantage. This form of combined Allied H. Q. is absolutely necessary, because of the many U. S. establishments which are growing up separately for many purposes in that area, particularly in respect of the great air route to China, which is being extended and expanded on an ever-increasing scale. Although there is excellent liaison and good feeling it is absolutely necessary to have unity of command in this theatre.

Another step, which was foreseen when we examined these matters as much as 16 or 17 years ago in the committee of Imperial Defence, is the separation from the ordinary normal statutory Command in India of any large, extensive, campaign fought on or beyond the frontiers of India. That also has been achieved.

The H. Q. of the new S. E. Asia Command will be set up, first at New Delhi, so as to be in close liaison with the Government of India.

During the organisational period, they have to be in the closest liaison with the Government of India and with Gen. Auchinleck, C.-in-C., India. The new command, and the appointment of Admiral Mountbatten, have been warmly welcomed by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, and they are in full accord with the views of our American Allies. In all these questions of joint Command, matters have to be so arranged that the men who are chosen to command have the full confidence of all the parties concerned.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

LEADING EVENTS.

16—9—43 (Thursday).	**Mussolini resumes direction of Fascism in** *ITALY*.
	Russians occupy *NOVOROSSISK* **(Black Sea port),** *LOZOVAYA* **and** *NOVGOROD—SEVERSKY*.
	Allies occupy vital New Guinea base of *LAE*.
17—9—43 (Friday).	**British 8th Army under General** *MONTGOMERY* **joins up with the American 5th Army under General CLARK.**
	Battle of *SALERNO* **beach-head (Italy) is won by the Allies.**
	Russians occupy *BRYANSK*.
	COL. KNOX, **the American Navy Secretary, arrives in** *LONDON* **for important Naval talks.**
18—9—43 (Saturday).	**Russians occupy** *PAVLOGRAD*.
19—9—43 (Sunday).	**Allies take** *BATTIPAGLIA* **and** *ALTAVILLA* **in Italy.**
	Mr. Churchill returns to *LONDON* **after the momentous Quebec talks.**
	Russians retake *YARTSEVO*, *DUKHOVSCHINA* **(both on the way to Smolensk) and** *KRASNOGRAD*.
	Germans evacuate *SARDINIA* **in the Mediterranean.**
20—9—43 (Monday).	**Corsicans, helped by Free French Command, are driving the Germans out of** *CORSICA* **(Mediterranean).**
21—9—43 (Tuesday).	**Allies occupy** *SORRANTO* **Peninsula (Italy).**
	Allies occupy Cos (Dodecanese Group).
	Russians occupy *CHERNIGOV*.
22—9—43 (Wednesday).	**Allies capture** *POTENZA* **(Italy).**
	Russians occupy *ANAPA*.

Italy.—*Sep. 14.*—Bitter fighting raged along a 28-mile coastal slip from SALERNO to AGRIFOLI, forcing the 5th Army to fall back at ALTAVILLA and ALBANELLA.

Sep. 15.—For the first time owing to exhaustion the German attack ceased for 24 hours.

Sep. 16.—The 8th Army linked up with the 5th between AGRIPOLI and VOLO but even before this happened the 5th Army had passed from the defensive to the offensive. The newly driven German salient between the Sele and the Colore had been wiped out. The Germans were on the retreat.

Sep. 17.—The advancing Allies took MONTE CORVINA and ALBANELLA. The 8th Army which had linked up with the 5th was now joined by the forces in the TARANTO area. The Germans were still attacking the N. edgeof the SALERNO bridgehead.

Sep. 18.—ROCCA D' ASPIDE, 12 miles inland, on the rigbt flank of the SALERNO front was occupied. The Germans still held strong positions outside SALERNO.

Sep. 19.—The 5th Army took ALTAVILLA and BATTIPAGLIA. The Germans were withdrawing from the SALERNO plain.

Sep. 21.—The 5th Army captured all the Commanding heights in the SORRANTO Peninsula overlooking the Gulf of Naples. AMALFI on the SALERNO Gulf, EBOLI in the SALERNO area and GIOJA in the TARANTO area were captured.

Sep. 22.—POTANZA has fallen.

The stage is being set for the Battle of NAPLES. The Germans are sacking and demolishing the city.

The following islands were captured by the Allies during the week: CAPRI (Gulf of Naples. Sep. 12); LERO (DODECANESE Sep. 13); PAOCIDA (Gulf of Naples Sep. 18); PONZA (Gulf of Gaeta Sep. 18); SAMOS (Aegean Sea Sep. 18), CASTELLORIZZO (DODECANESE), SARDINIA, COS (Sep 21) and CORSICA.

Russia.—The Red Army has captured the following important places during the week—NEZHIN—Railway junction, 65 miles north-east of KIEV; NOVOROSSISK, the Black Sea port, LOZOVOYA, on the KHARKOV front; BRYANSK, PAVLOGRAD, YARTSEVO, DUKHOVSCHINA near SMOLENSK; PRILUKI, LUBNY and in the KIEV direction of KIEV KRASNOGRAD, South-West of KHARKOV, CHERNIGOV CHERNI on the KIEV front and ANAPA (KUBAN).

The Battle of SMOLENSK is in full swing. Simultaneously the advance on KIEV continues. On the Dnieper Front the railway linking DNEPROPETROVSK with ZAPOZORHE has been cut. The Germans are on the defensive in the area bordering on the Sea of Azov.

The Pacific.—The capture of LAE, reported last week, is the culmination of a campaign of 9 months in the jungles, swamps and mountains of NEW GUINEA. Remnants of the Japanese garrison at LAE are fleeing to the high mountain ridges to the north through Markham valley. They are being intercepted by Australian paratroops landed at KAIAPIT (KIARI), north-west of LAE, on the way to MADANG.

On Sep. 14 Pacific Zone Forces conducted a heavy raid on Japanese bases on TARAWA Island in the N. GILBERT Group and on NAURU ISLAND, west of the GILBERT Group.

The town and seaplane base of AMBOINA was raided.

China.—The U. S. Air-force attacked barracks at SHILO, warehouses at YANGSU, camp installations near KIU KANG, ammunition dumps in NANCHANG, enemy installations at WUCHANG and HAIPHONG and warehouses and barracks at TAYET.

Burma.—The air-raids of the week are recorded in the next section.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

13—9—43 (Monday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY :—

Enemy shipping off the DUTCH coast.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

(6 German aircraft shot down).

The road near POMPEI.

Roads, railways, enemy positions, transport and troop concentrations around the SALERNO area.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap installations in LAE (N. Guinea).

Barracks at MACASSAR (Dutch Celebes).

GASMATA (N. Britain).

SELARU (Tanimbar).

GAROV Island (Vitu group).

FINSCHHAFEN (N. Guinea).

KOLOMBANGARA (Solomons).

BURMA.

A very terminal at SAGAING.

Barracks at LONKIN.

14—9—43 (Tuesday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

No information about day and nightair activity.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Railway marshalling yards at PESCARA.

The road junction at POTENZA.

Axis communications behind the SALERNO area.

RUSSIA.

(80 enemy planes shot down).

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front

FAR EAST.

Enemy positions along the north bank of the MARKHAM river

Jap airfield at WEWAK (N. Guinea). (23 Jap aircraft burnt out; 8 more shot down in air combats).

BURMA.

Supply bases in the HUKAWNG valley.

Railroad installations at KANBALU.

Buildings at MYITKYINA.

River craft and steamer along the IRRAWADDY.

Supply dump at MAGWE.

15—9—43 (Wednesday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

EVENING :—

Renault aircraft factories near PARIS.

The airfields at ROMILLY, MERVILLE and BRYASSUD (9 Allied planes missing).

NIGHT :—

The rubber factory at MONTLUCON.

Targets in BERLIN and North-west Germany.

Airfields over FRANCE (10 Allied planes missing).

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Targets in the SALERNO area (Italy).

Railways north of NAPLES (Italy).

Railway bridge at BENEVENTO (Italy).

RUSSIA.

(94 enemy planes shot down).

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

The Jap naval base at AMBOINA (Dutch N. Guinea).

The airfield at KAHILI in the Solomons (24 Jap planes destroyed).

A Jap destroyer off KIETA (Solomons).

Enemy targets in ADMIRALTY Islands, ROCK Islands, HANSA Bay (N. Guinea), SELARU (Tanimbar) and KOLAMBANGARA (Solomons).

BURMA.

Railways in the SHWEBO area.

An oil tank at YENANGYAT.

Sampans along the ARAKAN coast.

The jetty at KYAUKTYU.

16—9—43. (Thursday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

Day :—

Nazi armed vessels in the LE HAVRE area.

NIGHT :—(43 enemy planes destroyed and 2 Allied planes missing).

Marshalling yards at MODANE (French-Italo border).

A viaduct near ST. RAPHAEL.

Objectives in BERLIN.

Airfields, and railway and other targets in FRANCE and the LOW COUNTRIES.

3 minesweepers off the DUTCH coast (sunk).

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

An airfield at LISTERNO LITTORIO.

Roads at CASERTA and BENEVENTO.

Enemy transports and ammunition dumps in the SALERNO area.

Enemy airfields at CAMPINO and PRATTICA. (near Rome), and at CARVETERI and FURBARA

RUSSIA.

(8 enemy planes destroyed).

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Air combats over the WEWAK airfield in N. Guinea (48 Jap aircraft destroyed).

Enemy positions around LAE (N. Guinea).

Barracks at SHILO (China).

Ammunition dumps at NANCHANG (China).

BURMA.

Buildings at BUTHIDAUNG.

Locomotives and trucks at SAGAING.

Oil lorry at SHWEBO.

Oil barges and sampans along the IRRAWADDY and round RAMREE Island.

Jap troops at KYAUK PANDU.

17—9—43 (Friday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

NIGHT :—

Objectives in BERLIN.
Railway targets in BRITTANY (France).

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Marshalling yards and the road and rail junction at PESCARA (Italy)
Communications at POTENZA.
Railway yards at FOGGIA (Italy).
Transport and communications behind the German army in the SALERNO area.

RUSSIA

(37 German planes shot down).

Air combats and aircraft on the ground all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

SORONG Town area.
BUKA area (Solomons).
The airfields at KAHILI and BALLALE (Buin Faisi). (16 Jap planes shot down).

BURMA.

Railway buildings at TINDEINYAN and SEYWA.
Lorries on the road east of CHAUK.
Army huts on the TAUNGUP Pass and at KYAUKPANDU.
Buildings at APAUKWA.

18—9—43 (Saturday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY :—

Barges and tugs off the DUTCH coast.
Marshalling yards in the ROUEN area.
Enemy airfields at BEHUNAIS TILLE (France).

NIGHT :—

Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Airfield at VITERBO, PRATTICADI MARE and CAMPIANO (Italy).
Landing grounds at FOGGIA (Italy),
Roads in the SALERNO area.
Railway yards at PESCARA (Italy).
The MARITZA airfield on RHODES.
Railway yards in the NAPLES area.

RUSSIA.

(36 German planes shot down).

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

BUIN-FAISI area in Solomons (20 Jap planes shot down).

BURMA.

Locomotives, lorries and other targets on PROME.
Barracks near HENZADA.
Villages in the BUTHIDAUNG area.
Railroad junctions at NABA and BONGYAUNG GORGE.

19—9—43. (Sunday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY :—

The airfield at LILLE and MERVILLE (France) and at WOENSDRECHT (Holland).
Air combats over the CHANNEL and Northern FRANCE (6 enemy planes destroyed; 3 Allied planes missing).

NIGHT :—No information.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy vehicles and communications behind the SALERNO battle area (Italy).
Road junction and railways between ROME and NAPLES
Communications at POTENZA.

RUSSIA.

(4 German planes destroyed).

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap bases on TARAWA Island (Gilbert Group). and NAURU Island.
Airfields in the BUIN area. (14 Jap planes shot down).
A Jap ship off KAVIENG (N. Ireland) and **others** off CAPE ST. GEORGE and HANSA Bay (N. Guinea).

BURMA.

The dock area at MONYWA.
Warehouses in LONKIN.
Enemy supply installations at NINGEHANGYANG.
Villages in the AKYAB area.

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

14—9—43 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

Several places sn South-east ENGLAND including the LONDON area (4 German aircraft destroyed).

RUSSIA.

Russian position in the NOVOROSSISK area,

FAR EAST.

No Jap air activity.

15—9—43 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No information.

16—9—43 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.

Air combats in the BRYANSK area.

FAR EAST.

VELLA LAVELLA (Solomons).

17—9—43 (Friday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No information.

18—9—43 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

No information about day and night bombing.

RUSSIA.

Russian position in the SMOLENSK area.

FAR EAST.

ONSLOW (North-west sector).

19—9—43 (Sunday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No information.

20—9—43 (Monday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.

Russian armies on the SMOLENSK Front.

FAR EAST.

PORT DARWIN (Australia).

SIDE LIGHTS.

AN ESCAPED CONVICT. Hitler considers himself a superman. So let us hear the oracle. On June 30, 1939 he said, 'National Social Germany is well aware of the fate that awaits her if ever an international power, whatever its motive, should succeed in overcoming ITALY'.

The prophecy is coming true. This identical fate is overtaking Hitler now. ITALY has not only been overcome but has turned against him.

In his despair Hitler is boosting the return of Mussolini, the escaped convict, forgetting that he has been but transferred from one prison to another. Mussolini has proclaimed in a broadcast that he has come back to resume the direction of Fascism, and to extend 'comradely collaboration' to the Germans. Hitler, too, to cover his present continuous defeats, pretends to have discovered a new ally in him. But Mussolini is himself invisible; his whereabouts are not known; and his broadcast, a tinned and canned affair, was probably manufactured in a BERLIN studio.

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REPUBLICAN FASCISM. Mussolini's new fangled Republican Fascism or Fascist Republicanism, whatever it is, will go the way of the old Fascism and Mussolini himself, if he is not recaptured and handed over to justice for treason—he has arraigned and disowned his king—will be the Fuehrer's guest and henchman, speaking in his master's voice. At Hitler's bidding he has asked his Black Shirts—the least soldierly of the Italian forces—to rally. 'Black shirts' he shouts from his hiding place 'Re-form your battalions which have accomplished such heroic deeds. Young Fascists, join the ranks of divisions. Airmen, Fascist women workers and artisans, the State which grows out of this fighting will be your State.'

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A PATRIOT'S CALL. From ALGIERS, comes the counterblast—the resounding appeal of Badaglio's, which finds an echo in every Italian heart: "Italians, you have the power and the means in your hands, especially guerilla war, of which you have an example on the other side of the Adriatic.

'The Germans want to harm us, this ordeal, the hardest of all, must also be faced and overcome. We shall overcome it.

'It is your absolute duty to fight on at the side of the British and Americans against the Germans and a few senseless Itallans—no longer worthy of the name.

'We cannot allow the Germans to treat our country as occupied territory, to destroy our towns to save their own, to drag our mothers and sisters to Germany.

'To-day there is only one Order of the Day: 'Out with Germans.' How dare the Germans speak of honour, when they deserted our divisions on the Don, in LIBYA, in TUNISIA, and in CALABRIA.

'Fight the Germans in every way, everywhere, and all the time. Leave your towns and go to the country. Cut communication lines, blow up bridges and dockyards.

'To-day, to resist is to exist. It is the only way.'

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THE RESPONSE. The Italians are responding to the old Soldier's call by joining the Allied ranks and developing internal resistance. According to the latest news, an Italian submarine *Ammiraglio Cagni* has voluntarily surrendered. All Italian railwaymen, according to an ALGIERS broadcast (Sep. 21)

are on strike. In TURIN, street battles continue. On the F ench frontier, the Italian 4th Army is fighting the Germans in CUNEO. To hold down sabotage alone the Germans must employ a dozen divisions.

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TRIUNE OPERATIONS. Meanwhile, the Germans must reckon with the new terror of the Allied triune operations. The quick fall of CALABRIA, SALERNO, and TARANTO must have made them aware of the immense advantages the Allies possess in landing from sea and establishing bridgeheads. Similar landings in the ROME area and at LEGHORN are imminent.

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LIKE A CASTLE OF CARDS. The Adriatic coast is open. The DODECANESE islands are collapsing like a castle of cards. SARDINIA has fallen to the Italian patriots and CORSICA is falling to the French patriots.

What can Mussolini do, or the enlivened corpse of Fascism for the matter of that? Mussolini may proclaim a Fascist Republican régime in German-occupied ITALY. But his heroics, his old dying and dead voice, will not be heard beyond his confines. ITALY knows he is a discredited leader, Hitler's puppet.

The full significance of the Anglo-American N. African strategy is unfolding as the days pass. It is becoming more and more apparent that a wedge has been driven into the fortress of EUROPE, directed at the very heart. The Germans now admit that the fall of STALINO was the result of the invasion of ITALY. GERMANY's plight is serious. Only a fraction of the Allied forces are now employed against the under belly. All along the coast of N. AFRICA great reserves are standing ready. The mysterious 9th Army is mysteriously on the move.

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THE AXIS HAS BROKEN-AXLE AND WHEEL. The Axis is broken—axle and wheel. Its fragile spokes RUMANIA, HUNGARY, and BULGARIA are loosening into splinters. The political stability of the German defence system is no longer certain. To keep satellites in the field, and to keep occupied countries under control, are now formidable tasks to GERMANY.

Till ITALY surrendered, the German policy towards the satellites was to take a strong line of action; to treat the occupied countries ruthlessly, to bully the little allies and threaten the small neutrals. But now a wondrous change has come. Wooing and cooing methods have taken the place of the old terrorism.

In DENMARK terrorism has ended with threats. Indecision has come upon the German attitude.

There is indecision about SWEDEN. A few days ago German spokesmen were furious, and referred to the consequences that would follow if the Swedish Government and the Swedish Press did not mend their manners. They spoke of 'exhausted' German patience. When the Swedish, understanding the present situation, retorted and defied the Germans the campaign of threats was called off.

The fact is that GERMANY now lacks the strength to implement her threats. She can bark but no longer bite. The BALKANS know it. In BUDAPEST, BUCHAREST and SOFIA the fear of GERMANY is on the wane. Their pathetic desire is to get out of the war—out of the trap into which Hitler led them.

'HUNGARY' says the BUDAPEST Radio, 'would be among the neutrals now, if her critical geographical position had not decreed a different action.'

'RUMANIA', says the BUCHAREST paper, 'would have been glad to remain in peace and to have watched others fighting.

So the satellites are beginning to dream their way out of the war. The next step is to bestir themselves and work their way out.

But for GERMANY it is not a dream but a nightmare. A few more shocks such as ITALY has had, a few more holes in the European citadel, the whole political structure of the New Order will tumble down.

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THE BATTLE OF ITALY–STRATEGY. Despite Hitler's pretended surprise at Badoglio's surrender, there is reason to suppose that Hitler, through his informers, had previously appraised the coming situation and was preparing for a *coup* to overthrow the king and his new minister and to reinstate Mussolini. This was prevented by the Allies, by publishing the Armistice earlier than was intended. But in the existing demoralised condition of the country Hitler had little difficulty in seizing control of parts of Italian territory, including ROME. But the Allies had the advantage of landing in ITALY before the enemy had organised.

As a back-ground to the strategy there stand two distinct facts:—the conversion of the Italians from foes to friends and the surrender of the Italian fleet.

For the Allies, the problem was not how to land—because Axis sea opposition had ceased, but when and where to land, with the Germans massed in the NAPLES area and infiltrated in the south.

The 8th Army's resistance at the 'toe' met with slight opposition, because the Germans did not send here large the forces lest the Allies should land in the flank and rear. Moreover their armies were dispersed, with no time to concentrate.

The Allies, as a matter of fact, and for the reason feared by the enemy, did land in the SALERNO region in his rear, and this forced the enemy to oppose the Allies at SALERNO for all that he was worth. His object was to contain the Allied armies, to keep the escape corridor open, and to give time to Rommel to organise his defences in North ITALY.

But the Allies have contained the Germans at SALERNO and saved their beach-heads. The heavy fighting and losses near SALERNO have had their compensation in securing the rapid advance of the 8th Army, and its linking up with the 5th.

The results are already good. The Battle of SALERNO beach-head has ended in victory. Kesselring is on the retreat. The stage has been set for the Battle of NAPLES.

The Battle of ITALY has become the Battle of GERMANY, fought on Italian soil.

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GLOBAL. There is no further proof needed of the fact that, east or west, the war is one than the repercussions of the fall of ITALY not only in RUSSIA, which is jubilant, but in distant CHINA and AUSTRALIA. Says the Chinese *Ta Kung Pao*, commenting on the event '*Militarily*, Japan is now faced with the crisis of a change in naval strength in the Pacific. *Politically*, the ground has beeen cut from under Japan in world policy. Up to now the foundation of Japan's world power was built on the Tripartite Alliance, but of the three parties one has been killed and another seriously wounded. Japan must feel that the surrender of ITALY

amounts to one of her legs being maimed". 'The collapse of Italian resistance', Mr. Curtin has said, 'presaged the defeat of Japan'. BERLIN, through her official spokesman has admitted (Sep. 22) that 'the German withdrawal in RUSSIA is a *large scale retreat caused by shortage of reserves and the Allied landings in Italy*'.

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THE RUSSIAN FRONT. 'Wherever our troops yielded', says Goebbels speaking of the Russian Front, 'this was always done according to plan and in full order, and the coherence of the front line has been maintained' — brave words to cover a series of defeats, which in the last two weeks, have involved the expulsion of the Nazi armies from SUMY, LESICHANSK, TAGANROG, MARIUPOL, BRIANSK, NEZHIM, NOVOROSSISK, PAVLOGRAD, YARTSEVO, DUKOSCHINA, PRILUKI, LUBUY, ROMNEY, KRASNOGRAD and ANAPA. The break through the German first line defence on the OREL has been followed by the piercing of the second defence line on the Desna. In less than two months the Germans have been cleared out of the DONBAS. SMOLENSK, KIEV and the CRIMEA are threatened. The Red Army has approached the Dnieper.

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THE PACIFIC. 'Our progress may seem to be slow', said Gen. Marshall, the U. S. Army Chief of Staff, the other day, 'but it is steady, and determined, accompanied by terrific destruction of enemy planes and surface vessels.' In the last two months before they fell, both SALAMAUA and LAE received 2,000 tons of bombs each. The new Allied technique of simultaneous landing from sea and descent by parachute has proved successful beyond expectations. These methods are now continued. According to a message dated Sep. 22 Australian paratroops have landed at KAIAPIT (KIARI) N-W. of LAE on the way to MADANG, and cut off the Japanese attempting to escape from LAE through the Markham valley. It is interesting to note that Mac Arthur's forces that took LAE and SALAMAUA were supplied and reinforced, by sea as well as by air; in the latter case from PORT MORESBY over the Stanley Range.

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AIR WAR. Last week saw some of the greatest triumphs of aerial warfare, the first of which was the amphibious exercise of hundreds of English ships in the Channel under R. A. F. support, only 10 miles from BOULOGNE, the *Luftwaffe* looking on impotently and without interfering.

During the same period, 2,000 fighter sorties and 1,000 bomber sorties were flown over FRANCE and the Channel.

In ITALY Allied attacks on vital German communications continued day and night.

The air-offensive in EUROPE, once described by Mr. Eden as round-the-clock has, now become round-the-compass also. It is now directed on an area bounded by a circle passing through BORDEAUX, DANZIG, PLOESTI, GREECE, CALABRIA, SARDINIA and CORSICA. The territory inside this circle is well within range of bombers based on North AFRICA, ITALY and BRITAIN. The U. S. S. R. covers the entire eastern arc of the circle. When the 8th Army advances northwards in ITALY and bridgeheads are established in FRANCE and the LOW COUNTRIES the circle will contrast.

ROOSEVELT'S SURVEY OF THE WAR.

(Sep. 17, 1943).

(EXTRACTS)

We shall not be able to claim that we have gained a total victory in this war if any vestige of Fascism, in any of its malignant forms, is permitted to survive anywhere in the world.

THE NAPLES LANDING.

The Armistice with Italy was signed on Sep. 3 in Sicily, but it could not be put into effect until Sep. 8, when we were ready to make landings in force in the Naples area. We had planned these landings some time before, and were determined to go through with them, Armistice or no Armistice. Italian leaders appealed to their Army and Navy to end the hostilities against us. Italian soldiers, though disorganised and ill supplied, have been fighting the Germans in many regions. In conformity with the terms of unconditional surrender, the Italian Fleet has come over to our side—and it can be a powerful weapon in striking at the Nazi enemies of the Italian people.

When Hitler was forced to the conclusion that his offensive had been broken, and that he must go on the defensive, he started boasting that he had converted Europe into an impregnable fortress. But he neglected to provide that fortress with a roof. He also left various other vulnerable spots in the wall of the so-called fortress—which we shall point out to him in due time.

The British and U. S. Air Forces have been bombing this roofless fortress with ever increasing effectiveness. It is now our purpose to establish bases within bombing range of Southern and Eastern Germany, and to bring devastating war home to these places by day and night, as it has already been brought to Western Germany. When Britain was being subjected to mass bombing in 1940 and 1941—when the British people, including their King and Prime Minister, were proving that Britain "could take it"—strategists of the R. A. F. and our own Army Air Forces were not idle. They were studying the mistakes that Goering and his staff of Nazi terrorists were making. Those were fatal mistakes as it turned out.

NO ALLIED MISTAKE.

To-day, we and the British people are not making these mistakes. We are not bombing tenements for the sheer sadistic pleasure of killing, as the Nazis did. We are striking devastating blows at carefully-selected and clearly-identified strategic objectives—factories, shipyards, munition dumps, and transportation facilities, which make it possible for the Nazis to wage war. We are hitting these military targets and blowing them to bits.

German power can still do us great injury. But that evil power is being destroyed surely and inexorably, day by day; and, if Hitler does not know it by now, then the last trace of sanity has departed from that distorted mind.

We must remember that in any great air attack, Britons and Americans lose a fairly high proportion of aircraft, and that these losses must be made up quickly, so that the weight of bombing shall not decrease for a day in future. In fact, a high rate of increase must be maintained according to plan—and that means a constant stepping up of our production here at home.

RAID ON PLOESTI.

In a remarkable raid on the Ploesti oilfields in Rumania, we lost 53 of our heaviest bombers, and over 500 of our finest men. This may seem like a disastrously high loss, unless you figure it against the damage done to the enemy's war power. I am certain that the German or Japanese High Command would cheerfully sacrifice tens of thousands of men to do the same amount of damage to us if they could. These gallant and brilliant young Americans who raided Ploesti won a smashing victory, which I believe will contribute materially to the shortening of the war, and thus save countless lives.

We shall continue to make such raids all over the territory of Germany and her satellite countries. With Italy in our hands, the distances we have to travel will be far less, and the risks proportionately reduced.

We have reliable information that there is definite unrest and growing desire for peace among the peoples of these satellite countries—Rumania, Hungary, Finland, and Bulgaria. We hope that, in these nations, the spirit of revolt against Nazi dominance, which commenced in Italy, will burst into flame and become a consuming fire.

TRIBUTE TO RUSSIA.

Every American is thrilled by the sledge, hammer blows delivered against the Nazi aggressors by the Rusian Armies. This summer, there has been no successful German advance against the Russians as in 1941 or 1942.

The shoe today is on the other foot—and is pinching very hard. Instead, the Russians have forced the greatest military reversal since Napoleon's retreat in 1812.

The recapture of Kharkov, Stalino, and other strongholds by the Russians opening up the Ukraine and the Donetz Basin, and the freeing of millions of valuable acres and hundreds of inhabited places, hearten the whole world, as the Russian campaign moves towards the elimination of every German from the Russian soil—towards an invasion of Germany.

It is certain that the campaign in N. Africa, the occupation of Sicily, the fighting in Italy, and the compelling of a large number of German aircraft to go into combat in the skies over Holland, Belgium and France by reason of our air attacks, have given important help to the Russian Armies along their advancing front from Leningrad to the Black Sea. We know, too, we are contributing to that advance by making Germany keep many divisions in the Balkans, S. France, and along the English Channel. I like to think that these words constitute an understatement.

WAR AGAINST JAPAN.

Similarly, the events in the Mediterranean have a direct bearing upon the war against Japan. When American and British expeditionary forces first landed in N. Africa last November some people believed that we were neglecting our obligations to prosecute the war vigorously in the Pacific. Such people continually make the mistake of trying to divide the war into several watertight compartments—the Western European Front, the Russian Front, the Burma Front, the New Guinea and Solomons Front and so forth—as though all these fronts were separate and unrelated to one another. You even hear a talk of " air war " as opposed to " land war " or " sea war ".

Actually, we cannot think of this as several wars. It is all one war, and it must be governed by one basic strategy. The freeing of the Mediterranean, which we started last Fall, will lead directly to the resumption by our troops of complete control of the waters of the Eastern Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal.

Thus, we shall be enabled to strike the Japanese on another of their highly-vulnerable flanks. So long as Italy remained in the war as our enemy—so long as the Italian Fleet remained in being as a threat—a substantial part of the British naval strength had to be kept locked up in the Mediterranean.

Now, that formidable strength is freed to proceed eastward to join in the ever-increasing attack upon the Japanese. It has not been sufficiently emphasised that the freeing of the Mediterranean is a great asset to the war in the Far East.

There has been one serious gap in the lines of our globe-girdling sea power. That is the gap between N.-W. Australia and Ceylon. That gap can now be closed as the result of our victory in the Mediterranean.

But, if the future is tough for us, think what it is for Gen. Tojo and his murderous gang. They may look to the east or the west. They can see closing in on them, from all directions, the forces of retribution under Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, Gen. MacArthur, Admiral Nimitz, and Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten. The forces operating against Japan in the various Pacific theatres are just as much inter-related and dependent on one another as our forces pounding against Germany in Europe. With the new threats we offer from the Aleutians, Japan cannot afford to devote as large a proportion of her forces to hold the lines as in other areas. Such actions as the taking of Attu and Kiska do not just happen. They are the results of careful and complete planning, which was going on quietly while our critics were so perturbed that they had reached the verge of tears over what they called a threatened invasion of Seattle, Portland San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

OFFENSIVE IN BURMA.

Americans, Australians, New Zealand and Dutch forces, in a magnificent campaign in New Guinea and the Solomons, have destroyed much Japanese strength, and gained for us new bases from which to launch new offensive operations.

After a long period of defence strategy in Burma, we are determined to take the offensive there.

I am also glad to report to you that we are getting more supplies and military help to China. Almost every day, word comes that we have destroyed many times more Japanese aircraft in China and Burma than we have lost. That process will continue until we are ready to strike right at the heart of Japan itself.

The total amount spent on war from May, 1940, to date is 128,123 million dollars (about Rs. 38,436 crores). The bill is now running at the rate of 250 million dollars (Rs. 75 crores) per day.

RECORD PRODUCTION.

Up to Sep. 1, 1943 among the more important items produced and delivered since the armament programme started in May, 1940, are the following:—123,000 aircraft, 349,000 aircraft engines 53,000 tanks, 93,000 artillery weapons, 9½ million small arms (rifles, carbines, machineguns, etc.), 25,942 million rounds of small arms ammunition, and 1,233,000 trucks.

In most instances over half of the above total delivered to date was produced during the first 8 months of 1943, i.e., 52,000 aircraft 23,000 tanks, 40,600 artillery weapons, 4,638,000 small arms, and 13,339 million rounds of small arms ammunition.

The number of fighting ships and auxiliaries of all kinds completed since May, 1940 is 2,380 and 13,000 landing vessels. In 2½ years, between Jan. 1, 1941, and July 1, 1943 the power plants built between Jan. 1, 1941, and July 1, 1943, and power plants built for installations in Navy vessels have a horse power equal to all the horse power of all the hydro-electric plants in the United States in Jan., 1941. Completions of Navy ships during the last six months were equal to completions in the entire year 1942.

Since the oubreak of the war in Europe, we have increased our output of petroleum by 66%, we have stepped up our bituminous coal production by 40%, chemicals by 300%, iron ore by 125%, hydro-electric power by 79%, and steel by 106%.

Finally, as the war progresses, we seek national co-operation with other nations towards the end that world aggression be ended, and that fair international relationships be established on a permanent basis. The policy of Good Neighbour has shown such success in the hemisphere of the Americas that its extension to the whole world seems to be the next logical step. In that way, we can begin to keep faith with our sons and daughters who are fighting for freedom, justice, and security, at home and abroad.

GERMANY ACCEPTS DEFEAT IN U-BOAT WAR.

BRITAIN'S LONG-TERM PLANNING PAYS.

(*A. J. McWhinnie*).

I fully expected some indications from Germany that there has been a shake-up inside the German Admiralty. When the German High Command authorised their propagandists to announce the August figures indicating that German aircraft had sunk three times more Allied shipping than could be claimed by U-boats, the announcement was as good as a charge of failure hurled at Admiral Karl Doenitz, Hitler's Naval Commander-in-Chief.

The German High Command knew in December that U-boats were failing. In January, Admiral Karl Doenitz, 52 years old, Germany's greatest U-boat expert, was appointed supreme head of the whole German Navy.

GERMAN FLEET BETTER OFF IN HARBOUR.

Doenitz started denuding Germany's idle surface ships of some of their best men, deciding that the ships were better off in the safety of their Norwegian fjords, and told that U-boats would prove able to cope with any major Allied moves on the sea. That the *Luftwaffe* has had to fly to the rescue of U-boats, despite overwhelming air obligations ashore, is an open confession from Berlin that U-boats can no longer justify the description of "Hitler's prime weapon," and faith in U-boats is down to its lowest point. Whether Doenitz himself would be involved in such a shake-up is more doubtful, for his removal would be a terrible blow to the prestige of the U-boat fleet.

Nevertheless, his countrymen will hardly have forgotten that as recently as the spring, he said: "Britain can only be beaten at sea", yet he has contributed nothing towards that beating. It would be unwise for any one to believe because the recent German sinking claims have been widely exaggerated that the *Luftwaffe* cannot achieve some successes out on the oceans. I anticipate greater activity by long-range ocean aircraft against Allied shipping.

BRITAIN'S LONG-TERM PLANNING.

Britain, when her back was towards the wall, was making two-fold plans for beating back German invaders on the one hand and for a big ultimate offensive against Germany on the other. A very clear illustration of this long-term plan lay tucked away in a recent speech by Mr. A. V. Alexander, Britain's First Lord of the Admiralty. Disclosing the warships which played so triumphant a part in the Sicilian victory, he named three monitors. One was the *Erebus*, fine old bombarding veteran of the last war. The other two were H. M. S. *Roberts* and H. M. S. *Abercrombie.* Neither of those two ships is named in any naval reference book. Until now they have been on the secret list. They were planned and laid down during Britain's darkest days of 1940. At the very moment when Britain was expecting to be invaded by Hitler's forces, only 20 miles away, Britain was building ships specifically designed for bombarding Hitler's Europe many months ahead. That is the special job of monitors—shallow draught ships with 15-inch guns which in aggressive operations against the enemy become floating forts. Britain, in other words, was preparing to attack the coasts of Axis Europe, at a time when Britain herself was being blasted and battered by the Germans.

I was on board H. M. S. *Roberts* when she was on the secret list, being prepared for her adventures in the Mediterranean. I talked to the men who had brought back the defeated army from Dunkirk in 1940. I talked to the men transferred to the monitor from destroyers and corvettes, men I had known when Britain was feeling the full force of the U-boat menace. They grinned with eager anticipations; they told me: " This is the kind of ship where you have a good chance of getting your revenge. You wait a long time. But when the time comes, there is satisfaction in knowing the power and accuracy behind the big guns we carry for pummelling the enemy."

The new monitors started at Sicily on their pummelling operations. More will be heard of them. Britain has other types of specifically aggressive ships, planned, laid down and built during the days when only the farsighted could imagine the Axis advance being turned into retreat.

The Wren class sloops, which have just figured in the stirring story of smashing up U-boats actually in the Bay of Biscay—Hitler's front garden—were conceived when Britain was very much on the defensive.

WORK OF THE KILLER GROUPS.

These sloops, bigger than corvettes and frigates, smaller but with greater endurance than big destroyers, are an integral part of the British naval " Killer Groups ", which fight U-boats before U-boats can get a chance to strike at Allied convoys. These naval " Killer Groups ", working in the closest collaboration with Allied long-range anti-submarine aircraft, have perfected a technique for seeking out and destroying U-boats as they cross the Bay of Biscay to and from their bases.

The latest Admiralty and air Ministry communiqué describes the destruction of seven U-boats in a single series of attacks. Such actions have played a big part in dispersing U-boats from all important North Atlantic trade routes, forcing them to operate in more distant waters where the targets offered are fewer.

Again, time is against Germany. There were many convoys to be potted at off the African coast and the Cape a year ago. But much has happened since then.

THE WALL—AND HOW TO BREACH IT.

(Liberator)

Much has been written about the assault tactics which will determine the opening of the Battle of Europe. It is generally realised that they are, in strict sense, without precedent. The old tactical pattern of landing on a defended coastline no longer applies. It is radically altered by the new factor of air-power, which has overwhelmed the island-fortress of Pantellaria without any land-fighting.

Domination of the air over the coastal battlefield as well as over its approaches will probably decide the battle of the beaches, provided the air operations are made to fit with precision into the layout of operation by sea and land. Three years of war have taught us that in many ways problems of organisation are as important as those of material. The application of superior strength on the battlefield calls not only for formal agreement at the top of our organising structure, but even more for an intricate interlocking mechanism which brings about the maximum concentration of all arms for an agreed purpose. In North Africa, where we had to deal with an enemy confined in the Tunisian bridgehead, we found that the close co-operation between all the forces was amply repaid, We had both the outward form of a unified command and the reality of its application on the chosen battlefield. We have now applied this lesson to the much more difficult European theatre of war.

The *strategic* problems of the Battle of Europe have been much less discussed in public, though they are equally unprecedented. It may seem to some people that the aim of our landing or landings on the Continent is only to recreate the position of the last war, when Germany was forced to "bleed and burn" herself out on two Continental fronts. This is not so. The problem is more complicated and in some ways more promising.

THE OLD ADVANTAGE.

The fundamental strategic difference between the last war and this is made clear by a few simple figures.

In the last war, Germany had to fight on two fronts of together about 1,000 miles in length (a Western Front of somewhat over 400, an Eastern Front of not quite 600 miles). The distance between the two fronts was in the average not much more than 1,000 miles, covered for the most part by the then excellent network of German home railways. This state of affairs gave Germany the two great advantages of stability and mobility. Stability, because the 1,000 miles of front line could almost continuously be adequately manned; there were few "soft spots" in either line. Mobility, because armies could be smoothly and quickly switched from one front or one sector to another.

In this war, Germany has, in addition to her Eastern Front of now roughly 1,500 miles, to provide for the defence of some 5,000 miles of coastline in the West and South. Distances between the various fronts average from 2,000 miles upwards. Communications from front to front and from sector to sector cover the whole of Continental Europe, and have to be upheld over roads and railways often poor, dilapidated, and exposed to attack by air as well as harried by guerillas. Moreover, rolling-stock is heavily over-strained.

THE NEW DILEMMA.

This position takes away from Germany almost all the advantages of concentration and of the interior line, which were her greatest strategical assets in the last war. Indeed,

it would be an altogether untenable position, but for the great tactical advantage that most of this over-extened front is coastline and therefore difficult of access.

Once this initial difficulty is overcome and bridgeheads are established, the German armies will on almost every front, except perhaps only the Channel coast, fight under most perilous conditions of exposure and overstretched communications—conditions comparable to those of Stalingrad and, in some cases, like Norway and Crete, comparable even to those of Tunisia. Local and tactical reserves will, of course, be distributed in the immediate hinterland of coastal key-points, mobile and ready to intervene in the coastal battle within about two or three days from the initial landing. But once these have been absorbed, it will be most difficult for the German High Command to bring strategical reserves into play. It will take much time, it will involve a very serious transport problem, and it will in almost every case dangerously weaken another sector of the huge perimeter which Germany has to guard against attack.

In a word, we have reached a stage where the normal advantages of the interior line largely cease to count owing to over-extension. Indeed, it is thinkable that in more than one case the strategic mobility of the attacker on the exterior line, given sufficient reserves of shipping space, will surpass that of the defender on the interior line—a situation in which Britain can exploit to the full the advantage of sea-air power.

We have to concentrate upon this far-flung perimeter of the German fronts to exploit the full potentiality of this position. Germany's position is such that whatever and wherever our opening gambit is made it will have its repercussions along the whole vast perimeter. In fact, the condition of German defence is such that it is in the very nature of our strategy to extend the defensive forces of the Germans to the utmost before the decisive and main action is joined. It is not to our interest to choose only one "main theatre" and there to have it out with the Germans more or less on their terms as a land Power. This strategy was imposed on us in the last war through the French alliance, but it leaves the greatest assets of an amphibious Power unused.

STRETCHING THE AXIS.

In this war, the strategic aim of the combined amphibious power of Britain and America must be to keep the Germans constantly extended to the utmost degree and force them to battle, simultaneously or successively, on widely separated points, where they are in turn forced to weaken, isolate, or expose their armies of defence. In other words, it is our task now to bring about situations like those which the Germans brought on themselves at Stalingrad, in the Caucasus, and in Tunisia. The enormous over-extension of Germany's defence perimeter gives us the chance of doing this.

Such a strategy demands highly flexible plans, and highly flexible plans demand an extremely centralised machine.

EVOLUTION OF HITLER'S AUTUMN SPEECHES.

(*The Manchester Guardian*).

The speech fits in with the memorable series delivered in each September or early October of the war. They are landmarks in its history.

Thus on September 4, 1940, he was in a magnificent spirit. His audience rocked with laughter as he taunted Britain with the destruction to come: "If the British air

force drops two, three or four thousand kilograms of bombs, we will drop at hundred and fifty, at hundred and eighty, two hundred thousand, three hundred thousand, four hundred thousand kilograms and more in a single night."

Another year on October 3, 1941, he could report on the Russian offensive: "We have not made a wrong calculation in any of our plans. This enemy has already been broken and will never rise again."

In his speech on September 30, 1942, the exultant note was weaker (although Stalingrad "will be taken, you may be sure of that") and it was necessary to repeat that he would never capitulate. But he was in fine form about the "second front;" "Had I in front of me a serious opponent, I could figure out where the second front would come. But with these military idiots, one never knows where they will attack. The maddest enterprise may be launched and—this is the only disagreeable thing—one never knows what next when faced with such lunatics and drunkards. Of course, we must prepare everywhere. Let me assure Mr. Churchill that wherever he may choose for his next attack, he may consider himself lucky if he remains on land for nine hours." There was no such heavy sarcasm in his last speech.

[*The Italian invasion is now weeks old—not nine hours only*—Ed.]

HOW FASCISM FELL: LAST HISTORIC GRAND COUNCIL.

OFFICIAL ACCOUNT ISSUED IN ROME.

How Fascism fell amid torrents of abuse in the Grand Council, and intrigues of rival conspiracies form the subject of an official account issued in Rome.

It describes how in the last scene Mussolini was threatened with a revolver. It is a history of betrayal and recrimination, rarely found outside melodrama or the scenes of comic opera. The full account fills six columns of one newspaper. It is stated to be based on the evidence of a person "in the forefront of events in Italy" at the relevant time.

At the last historic meeting of the Fascist Grand Council, Mussolini began to speak of the invasion of Sicily. He expected, he said, stronger resistance by the Italian troops.

At this de Bono, one of the men known as the quadrumvirate who led the Fascist March on Rome, leapt to his feet and flourished a revolver at Mussolini. This was because he considered that the Duce had insulted the honour of the Italian soldier.

Mussolini, who seems in the last days of Fascism to have gone from one transport of fury to another, shouted: "You are the last man who should be allowed to speak for the honour of the Italian soldier."

De Bono had disgraced himself by favouring another revolutionary movement at the time of the March on Rome, and having conductedthe initial stages of the Abyssinian campaign disastrously.

The General, who is 76, lapsed into silence and did not discharge his revolver even at the ceiling.

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Pareschi, the Agricultural Minister, was so excited that he fell in a faint. The vituperative meeting was interrupted while the Grand Councillors applied restoratives. Later, he again fainted, but this time he was left to recover by himself, while threats of insults were bandied across the hall. When he recovered, he burst into tears.

To Ciano, Mussolini, who constantly lost his temper, shouted: "From the evening of the first day this man crossed my threshold, I have been betrayed by him."

To Grandi, he hurled a taunt: "Twenty times, you came to me to ask for a title of nobility."

Towards the end of the meeting, Farinacci, the former Secretary of the Fascist Party, realising that Mussolini was a beaten man, stole away along the passage to the stairs reserved for Mussolini's personal use leading to Via Degli Astalli. Federzoni, then President of the Academy, who with Grandi, the former Ambassador in London, had been plotting a putsch against Mussolini, mistaking the reason why the industrialist leader Balella left the hall, scribbled this message on a piece of paper, "Beware, our assassination is being prepared." This he circulated among his fellow conspirators.

How the motion, fateful to Mussolini, was voted and passed, is already known to the world. Leaving the Grand Council for the last time, Trungali Casanova, President of the Defence Tribunal found himself left with Ciano and said to him: "Young man, what you have done is a crime that one pays for with one's own blood. My best wishes go with you, but do not interpret that as meaning that I expect you to live much longer."

The official account of the fall of Fascism states that Hitler and Mussolini parted almost daggers-drawn at their last meeting. Because of the situation in Sicily, Mussolini wanted more military support from Germany.

Germany, disinclined to deliver arms, only insisted on sending soldiers to carry them. Mussolini resented this. Discussion became almost immediately stormy. Hitler put military demands on Italy, which Mussolini considered to be unreasonable, and temporised on the help that Mussolini wanted. Mussolini lost his temper.

The account says that he used strong expressions "to register his displeasure." The Dictators parted with nothing accomplished. Ambrosio, the Italian Army Chief, who was present, gave a full report to the King. The King was aware that Badoglio headed one group intriguing against Mussolini, and that Grandi and Federzoni led another. The latter wanted to save the Fascist régime but to cause Mussolini's downfall.

Both groups, apparently unknown to each other, were watching for an opportunity to bring about a *coup d' état.*

The King was in contact with both groups. He refused Grandi's request to intervene. He told Grandi that it was the business of the Fascist Grand Council. If the Duce were out-voted, the King said, it would enable him to remove Mussolini constitutionally.

The King was told that not only was the military situation in Italy precarious, but that there was a cooling off in relations with Germany which, they said, was the direct result, of Mussolini's behaviour and policy. Then came the stormy Grand Council debate lasting from 6 p. m. on July 24 to dawn next day. Afterwards the King called Mussolini who procrastinated and pretended not to grasp what the King wanted.

Grandi and Federzoni had given the King an account of the meeting. When Mussolini at last arrived, he gave the King a not very accurate account of what had happened, and proceeded to talk about the future. The King interrupted Mussolini, white of face, and asked for an explanation when after some further attempts at justification on his part, he at last began to grasp the position.

Then the King said :—" I have to inform you that your successor as Prime-Minister has already been decided on. He has already *de facto* taken up his duties. He is Marshal Badoglio. You must place yourself at his disposal." Mussolini again lost his temper and proceeded to threaten. He said he felt strong enough to resist the Throne and the army. Despite the King's warnings, Mussolini declared that he had made up his mind about what he would do.

GERMANY'S SECOND FRONT AIR PROBLEM.

(*FREDERICK TOMLINSON*).

Germany's second front problem is nowhere as acute as it is in the air. In the last war her difficulty was to find man-power for her armies to contain French, Belgian, and British forces in the West, while Russia was being broken. The strain on man-power is greater still in 1943.

To-day, the German Air Force must be ready to lead the ground forces if Russia is attacked again ; it must be prepared to meet intense Russian opposition in attack or counter-attack ; and while it is trying to defend the Reich against night and day bombing from British bases, it must be ready to concentrate on our invasion forces at any point from the tip of Norway to the Balkans.

To cover the tremendously long front in Russia, and the coastline from Norway to France, Italy, and on to the Balkans, Germany has 5,000 front-line aircraft. To these resources must be added her rich experience in combining air and land power, and the strategic mobility of her air force.

Germany's ability to concentrate quickly was shown at Dieppe. In this operation the Germans were able to bring into use their long range bombers by midday. It was perhaps a tactical error to do so, but it showed the speed at which forces to deal with a bridgehead could be brought up. The problem can be made harder for Germany by multiplying the points of assault.

The position to-day is that while Russia pins down nearly two-fifths of the German front-line air strength, the *Luftwaffe's* mobility is still enough to enable it to concentrate in formidable strength at any point, if only on one front at a time. The *Luftwaffe* could soon double its fighter strength in, for example, the Le Havre area. But it would mean withdrawing forces from perhaps even Abbeville and St. Omer, or from the interior of Germany. She could not, however, spare them now from Russia or the Mediterranean.

COVER FOR ATTACK.

In the West, the *Luftwaffe* has fewer than 1,000 day and night fighters. She is reported to have 200 or 300 first-line long-range bombers in readiness for the invasion; but since Dieppe our air forces have greatly been strengthened by American long-range bombers and single-engined fighters, and we possess enough strength in Britain to give adequate air cover to several simultaneous sea-borne attacks across the Channel. The Germans are aware of this, and (assuming that a cross-Channel invasion is a possibility) we need not concentrate on one point, unless we seek an air battle that will be decisive on the first day.

The Germans realise the seriousness of the position. That is why they are making no serious attempt to raid Britain by night—the fighter bomber attacks by day and night are unimportant to the war's future.

If the Germans had a large number of Heinkel 177s it might be a different story, but the *Luftwaffe* authorities are wisely side-stepping any clamour there may be for reprisal raids.

RESERVES OF CREW.

Germany used fewer than 1,500 aircraft in destroying the Polish Air Force as an effective force in three days, fewer than 1,000 in Norway, and probably fewer than 1,500 in the campaign in the Balkans and Crete. She has previously been able to call on as many aircraft as she needed. She began the war with between 4,000 and 5,000 first-line aircraft (which she thought would be enough), and has tried to maintain that figure ever since. Her training of crews and production of military, training, and transport aircraft were designed to maintain a more or less static front-line strength. She undoubtedly has considerable reserves of aircraft, but (judging by some reliable reports) her reserves of pilots and air-crews are not good.

Losses have undoubtedly been heavy on the Russian front, where Germany began with about 3,000 machines (within a few hundreds of the number she had at the beginning of the Battles of Flanders and Britain). She concentrated almost 1,000 bombers on the Moscow front, and 1,000 aircraft were used directly to support the Stalingrad offensive.

Now there are fewer than 2,000 German aircraft in the East, and if the German aircraft industry is producing 3,000 aircraft of all types each month it will be too few when the final decisions have to be taken.

PEOPLE AID IN WAR ON PROFITEERS.

HOW BRITAIN TACKLES THE HOARDING PROBLEM.

Hoarders, like the poor, would seem to be always with us. They exist almost everywhere in the world, though operating in different degrees in different countries. True,

hoarding can find little incentive in a country like the U. S. S. R. whose economic structure has rubbed off the edge of individual greed, nor can it flourish in a country like Germany where there is not much to hoard But in democratic countries like Britain and the U. S. A. where the old economic values are still potent, and where there yet remain the good things that can be hoarded and black-marketed, hoarders do crop up and challenge the powers of the Government and the vigilance of the public.

That under the existing economic controls in Britain there can yet remain a scope for black market activities should surprise most of us. With the Ministry of Food having bought up most of the essential foodstuffs and distributed them equitably throughout Britain, with rationing covering most of the purchasable articles, with the setting-up of price control that guarantees a maximum price for most of the essential wants of life, with retail shop transactions in fact having become as standardised as transactions in a post office, and with the rates of income-tax prohibiting extravagant purchasing, one would believe that there could be very little hoarding in Britain. But it appears that, even as the best conducted families are not proof against accidents or actresses, the best controlled economic life in Britain has not been proof against " blacketeers " and their patrons.

The blacketeer in Britain is known to act in two ways, first by evading the law through its loopholes and, secondly, by escaping the law by hiding underground. In a House of Commons debate on April 30, 1941, it was revealed that the Chairman of the North Midlands Food Prices Investigation Committee gave many " incredible instances " of profiteering in unrationed food, particularly tinned goods. About a year after, in March 1942, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food, Major Lloyd George, reported to the House of 40,000 black market and other food prosecutions in Britain in the course of the year.

PUBLIC VIGILANCE.

The authorities in Britain have not been fighting alone. For they always had the most helpful co-operation of the public in the crusade against the profiteers. Public co-operation in this connection has taken two forms. In the first place the people have acted as hounds aiding the Government's hunt for the culprits, and, secondly, they have submitted with full knowledge and consent to all the legal and executive measures of the State, which in other times they would not have countenanced. It may be said also that large-scale producers and distributors have wholeheartedly co-operated with the authorities, with the result that the accounts and destinations of stocks are at any time verifiable, and the hoarder can accordingly be detected with comparative ease. To mention only one instance, the earliest in fact of such co-operation, all the British margarine producers have entered into an agreement with the Government to arrange and guarantee an even distribution of their products.

In short, the attitude of the British industrialist and wholesale distributor in the present war has been in happy contrast to that of his 19th century forbear, who is said to have frequently drunk a toast " to a bloody war and a bad harvest.''

The work of keeping vigilance against the blacketeer, however, is largely that of ordinary folk. The richer people have a temptation to patronise the black market, and some of them, in fact, derive vicious excitement in seeking for things simply because

they are contraband. In order to prevent these costly cravings of the few from being exploited by enterprising individualists, a number of private vigilance committees have been set up to investigate cases of profiteering and report them to the police. This work also has been taken up by that network of Citizen Advice Bureaus, which are very popular throughout Great Britain under the name of " Street Corner Encyclopaedias ".

Besides these non-official bodies, every locality has an official price-regulation sub-committee on which both consumers and traders are represented. These members are drawn from the public on the principle enunciated by Lord Woolton : " We believe, as far as possible, in letting people run their own shows ".

Incidentally, it may be mentioned that the Press of Britain has without a single exception supported Government and advised it about the anti-hoarding measures to be taken. The papers used, in fact, every kind of tactic in their campaign on the food front. The *Daily Herald's* " Lick the Plate Clean " crusade is a case in point.

DEMAND FOR STRICTER LAWS.

The British public has helped the authorities even more effectively in another manner. It has from time to time raised its protest against the profiteers to such an extent as to move Government to undertake harsher and more drastic measures against the offenders. Laws in England are the embodiment of public opinion, and though they are made in Parliament, they originate in such humble places as the street corners and the public houses. In the pubs of Britain, particularly, public opinion is first formed, assisted by the happy spontaneity of the Spirit ; and so it is not without significance that the London Correspondent of *Time* (U. S. A). wrote, on March 30, 1941, " In the pubs there was wild talk that blacketeers should be shot." Wrote the liberal paper *Star* in this connection in a " cry havoc " mood, shared by all its contemporaries, " There has never been anything quite like it in this country—certainly not since the 18th century organisation of thieves and highway men." A gallup poll followed, which showed that 82 per cent of the people favoured outright imprisonment of guilty blacketeers.

The authorities took the cue forthwith, and the penalty for proved offence was raised to 14 year's imprisonment *and* a fine, the latter to equal three times the profit intended to be made. As if this were not enough, a vital principle of British jurisprudence was reversed, and in the case of a black-market prosecution the onus of proving innocence was placed on the accused.

WAR IN NEW GUINEA JUNGLE.

The Australian correspondent in New Guinea, Axel Olsen, says that the magnificent work of the A. I. F. in beating back the Japanese from Wau to Salamaua will never be properly appreciated.

It is impossible to realise the enormity of their task, the horrors of the jungle, mud, and eternal rain, and seemingly endless struggle to blast the enemy from ridge to ridge.

After a 5-day walk from Wau through Mubo to Bobdubi, he found it hard to believe that for the last seven months the Australians not only lived but fought bitter battles with the tenacious Japanese, and in every engagement beat the enemy further back.

Some day these men will return and try to tell their terrible experiences, but they will not be able to convey what they have seen and suffered.

In the Salamaua hinterland, time, distance, rain, cold, mud, sickness and injuries are words which take on a new meaning. It must be experienced to be believed.

Rain and mud are inescapable, and time is reckoned not in days or months but from event to event. Distance is measured in walking hours, as a muddy mile of precipitous track takes over an hour to cover.

The stoicism of the wounded is amazing, and fighting in the jungle is a deadly game of hide-and-seek.

PRESIDENT CHIANG KAI-SHEK.

ELEVATION: A MARK OF COUNTRY'S CONFIDENCE.

The Daily Telegraph.

By his election to the Presidency of China, Chiang Kai-Shek acquires new dignity but no new powers.

As Chief of the Executive Council and Generalissimo, he already exercised the highest civil and military functions in the State. Nevertheless, his elevation to the titular headship is a signal mark of his country's confidence in his outstanding leadership, and a fitting recognition of the immense services he has rendered her.

At no time since the fall of monarchy, over 30 years ago, has China been so united as she is to-day. That unity is in part the result of a natural disposition to sink differences in the face of the external aggressor, but it is at least as much the work of Chiang Kai-Shek in organising resistance and creating a national spirit. Quislings were not wanting, and it is reasonably certain that China possessed no other man who could have infused cohesion and energy to survive the ordeal of the last six years.

Under Chiang's guidance, China will emerge from this war with status and prestige such as she has not enjoyed for centuries. Her leaders are keenly alive to the great problems which will confront her in peace, of which one of the most important is establishment of a stable constitution. Chiang's position rests on his personal authority, assisted by a semi-oligarchic council, rather than upon any direct method of ascertaining the national will.

That he possesses the enthusiastic allegiance of the overwhelming majority of his countrymen is not in doubt, but he has expressly foreshadowed the end of the present system of "political tutelage", as soon as the emergency which necessitates it has passed. It can confidently be predicted that he will preside over China's regeneration in peace with the same highmindedness with which he has served her so well in war.

'V' DIARY, 1944.

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27- 9-43	Perumanadu	... 7.00 „
„	Pulvayal	... 7.30 „
28- 9-43	Kilanilai-Puduppatti..	7.00 „
28- 9-43	Kilanilai	... 7.30 p.m.
29- 9-43	Annavasal	... 7.00 „
„	Kilakkurichchi	... 7.30 „

N. W. F. DUSSARA LECTURES CLXVI

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1-10-43	„	„
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